UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/49/497
10 October 1994

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-ninth session
Agenda item 9

GENERAL DEBATE

Letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to you concerning the statement of Dr. Alois Mock, Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria, made on 29 September 1994 in the General Assembly and, upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of the following.

Mr. Mock's blatant charges represent only the latest of indiscriminate attacks by the Austrian authorities against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Serb people as a whole. The events that have been unfolding in the territory of the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia were the consequence of the forceful secession of some of the former Yugoslav republics, fervently incited, persistently encouraged and directly assisted by Austria. The premature recognition of the entities created in the process spearheaded by Austria, resulted in the bloody civil and inter-ethnic conflicts in Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. It is evident that no aggression or interference by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has taken place. As of May 1992, no soldier of the army of Yugoslavia is outside of its borders. This fact was acknowledged at the time in the report of the United Nations Secretary-General.

The charges that the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is responsible for the continuation of the civil war in the former Bosnia and Herzegovina are totally unwarranted since the Yugoslav Government supported all peace plans: the Cutileiro Plan, the Vance-Owen Plan, the Stoltenberg-Owen Plan and the Plan of the European Union, including the latest plan of territorial settlement by the Contact Group.

It is absurd to criticize the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia at the moment when its continued efforts and contribution to peace and its search for a compromise solution, on the basis of an equal treatment of all parties to the conflict, are gaining ever-wider support. As one of the most constructive and

major factors in the peace process, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is striving towards granting an equal right to self-determination to all peoples, including the Serbs. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia enjoys the increasing support of the international community in this respect. To claim otherwise now is to threaten the positive evolution of such positions reflected in the Security Council decision on the suspension of the sanctions.

As for the Republic of Serbian Krajina, Yugoslavia resolutely supports and advocates that the resolution of the problem be sought in direct negotiations on an equal footing between the authorities of the Republic of Serbian Krajina and the Republic of Croatia, in compliance with the Vance Plan. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia was the first to initiate the negotiations of the parties involved, on the basis of equality, on the cessation of hostilities and phased approach to the problem by alleviating profound mutual distrust. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is determined to stay the course and shall accept any solution reached by the parties to the conflict in direct and fair negotiations.

The allegations advanced by Minister Mock concerning the situation in Kosovo and Metohija are particularly alarming and totally untrue. They represent the most flagrant interference in the internal affairs of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Malicious and dangerous as they are, such positions encourage separatism and are an expression of a long-term support that Austria had given and is still giving to the secessionist forces in the territory of the former Yugoslavia. Those positions are unacceptable and worrisome as their purpose is to trigger new conflicts and destabilize the region. It is known, however, that the Albanian national minority in Kosovo and Metohija enjoys all the rights guaranteed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republic of Serbia which are in line with the relevant international instruments. Many of those rights have been declined by the Albanian minority themselves under the pressure of their separatist leaders who have received Minister Mock's unreserved support on this occasion as well.

From the statement made by Minister Mock it transpires that Austria remains to be in the forefront of those who insist that the crisis in the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia is to be resolved by military means at a time when the international community is making utmost efforts and scoring results in the promotion of the peace process. Minister Mock's statement is yet another cry for the use of force and a forceful solution which is in direct contravention of the ongoing efforts and aims of the international community.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as an official document of the General Assembly under agenda item 9.

(Signed) Dragomir DJOKIC
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.